

We Claim:

1. A computer system, comprising:
a sidewall having an aperture therethrough; and
a multiple-connector apparatus disposed to pass at least partially
through the aperture, able to be positioned in a retracted position to conceal at least
one of the connectors inside the computer system and in an extended position in
which at least one of the connectors is accessible outside of the computer system.

2. A computer system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
a push-push mechanism facilitating movement of the multiple-connector
apparatus.

3. A computer system comprising:
a housing having a top side and a sidewall; and
a port connector apparatus having a plurality of port connectors
arranged in a plane substantially parallel to the top side and adapted to receive mating
connectors in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall.

4. A computer system as defined in claim 3 wherein:
the sidewall has an aperture; and
the port connector apparatus includes an extension/retraction
mechanism that enables the port connector apparatus to be extended and retracted
through the aperture.

5. A computer system comprising:
a housing means having an aperture; and
a means for changing a total number of port connectors exposed outside
of the housing means;
and wherein the changing means enables a plurality of the port
connectors to move back and forth through the aperture.

6. A computer system as defined in claim 5 further comprising:
a means for holding the port connectors in a retracted position relative to
the housing; and
a means for releasing the port connectors from the retracted position
relative to the housing.

7. A computer system comprising:
a housing; and
a connector tray connected to the housing and having a plurality of port

connectors;

5 and wherein more port connectors are accessible when the connector tray is extended at least partially outside the housing than when the tray is retracted within the housing.

8. A port connector mechanism for use in a computer system comprising:
 a plurality of port connectors disposed in a connector tray; and
 an extension/retraction mechanism that locks the connector tray in a retracted position until released therefrom and enables the released connector tray to
5 extend to an extended position.

9. A port connector mechanism as defined in claim 8 wherein:
 the extension/retraction mechanism comprises a push-push mechanism.

10. A port connector mechanism as defined in claim 8 further comprising:
 an actuator button that, upon activation, causes the extension/retraction mechanism to release the connector tray from the retracted position.

11. A method for changing a number of accessible port connectors of a computer system comprising:
 providing the computer system with a multiple-connector tray in a retracted position relative to a housing of the computer system, the multiple-connector tray having at least one connector inaccessible in the retracted position; and
5 extending the multiple-connector tray to an extended position relative to the housing in which the connector is accessible

12. A method as defined in claim 11 further comprising:
 releasing the multiple-connector tray from the retracted position.

13. A method as defined in claim 11 further comprising:
 retracting the multiple-connector tray back to the retracted position.

14. A computer system, comprising:
 a retractable multiple-connector apparatus.

15. A computer system as defined in claim 14 further comprising:
 a housing;
 and wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus is integrated with the housing.

16. A computer system as defined in claim 14 wherein:
 the retractable multiple-connector apparatus retracts entirely into the computer system.

17. A computer system as defined in claim 14 further comprising:
a housing;

and wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus retracts within
the housing to a position at which a remote side of the retractable multiple-connector
apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing.

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18. A computer system as defined in claim 14 further comprising:
a housing;

and wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus comprises a
portion that pivots relative to the housing upon being extended from the housing.

19. A computer system as defined in claim 18 wherein:

the portion of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus pivots to a
vertical position relative to the housing.

20. A computer system as defined in claim 19 wherein:

the retractable multiple-connector apparatus further comprises a plurality
of connectors accessible from a side away from the housing of the computer system.